

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

400 Washington Avenue  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 887-3384

[council5@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:council5@baltimorecountymd.gov)



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david\_s\_marks

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **MOVING FORWARD ON PLANS FOR A GREENER TOWSON**

Several years before I was elected, the County Council set the open space fees for new development in Downtown Towson at an extraordinarily low level. In 2008, the County Council exempted one developer from paying \$1.4 million in open space fees. The goal was to give developers an incentive to invest in Downtown Towson and its nearby neighborhoods, but by doing this, previous county governments created a shortfall in funding for parks and recreation sites.

Developers should incorporate green space and pedestrian connections into their projects, but when they cannot, they should pay fees to develop these amenities nearby. Raising the fees to \$2,000 for each new home, for example, would generate a level that is 16 times the average current amount.

My vision for Greater Towson includes the projects already announced by the County Executive--[artificial turf fields at Carver and High Schools](#), and the [new parks at Patriot Plaza and Radebaugh property in eastern Towson](#). Two other initiatives are also underway: Adelaide Bentley Park in eastern Towson, and the West Towson Trail near the Towson Y.

A robust open space package, however, could advance a third turf field or regional park in Greater Towson, as well as other park and trail projects for Towson's communities.



The open space fee legislation is part of a package of environmentally-sensitive improvements we are pushing in Towson, including a [transit circulator](#) and a Towson Greenway that would stretch across York Road. Learn more at the [Facebook page](#) and please stay engaged over the next few weeks.

## **HELP DESIGN EAST TOWSON'S ADELAIDE BENTLEY PARK**

Councilman Marks will sponsor a meeting with NeighborSpace of Baltimore County to plan for park improvements in Historic East Towson. The meeting will also identify properties for tree plantings within the community. The meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 7 at 7 p.m. at the Carver Center at 300 Lennox Avenue in East Towson.



## COUNCIL PASSES LEGISLATION ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA, SOLAR ENERGY

At its recent meeting, the County Council passed legislation:

- [Clarifying where medical marijuana businesses](#) can operate in the county.
- Raising the threshold for energy conservation tax credits to help eliminate the ten-year backlog for these tax credits; and
- [Requiring better review of new construction](#) in the Towson Estates community.

Councilman Marks was a sponsor or cosponsor of all three pieces of legislation. For information on all legislation, visit [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov).

## COUNCILMAN MARKS TO HOLD COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON TOWSON OVERLAY ZONE

Councilman Marks will hold two community meetings to gather input on the proposal to create a Towson overlay zone. The goal is to condense more than a dozen confusing development and zoning districts into one area that has simple rules, better design guidelines, and more robust requirements for sustainability and mobility.

There will be two community meetings—one held in the afternoon to accommodate those who live or work in Downtown Towson, and a second held in the evening to accommodate residents. Anyone can attend, however, and there will be more opportunity to comment should legislation be introduced.

- Thursday, October 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, 102 W Pennsylvania Ave #101.
- Monday, October 26 at 6 p.m. at the Towson library, 320 York Road.

You can read the minutes from the September 17 Planning Board meeting at which was discussed here: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/boards/pbmeetings.html>. In the event that Baltimore County Public Schools are closed, either meeting will be postponed.

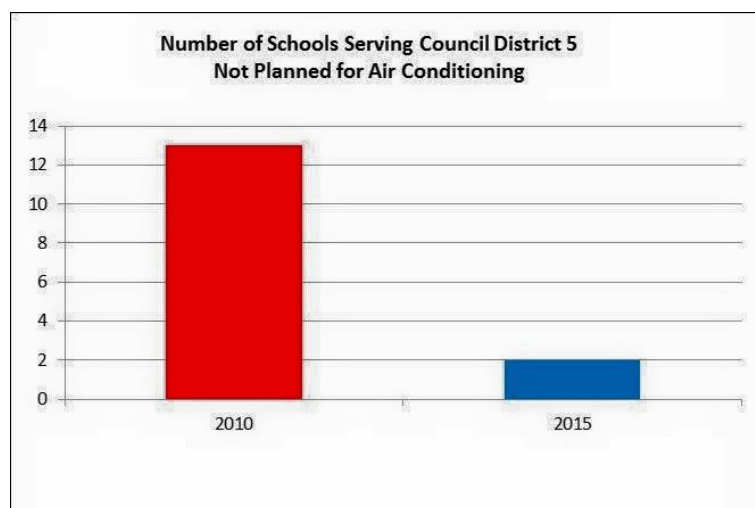
## PUBLIC MEETING PLANNED FOR GUNPOWDER FALLS WATERSHED

Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability is encouraging participation from communities within urban areas of the Lower Gunpowder Falls watershed at an upcoming public meeting on October 14. The urban portions of the Lower Gunpowder Falls watershed include parts of Perry Hall, Carney, and Towson.

The community meeting will take place at the lower level meeting room of the Loch Raven Branch Library (1046 Taylor Avenue in Towson) on Wednesday, October 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## STAY ENGAGED ON THE AIR CONDITIONING ISSUE

Since 2010, Councilman Marks has worked to install air conditioning in schools where there is none. With support from the County Executive, School Board, and state legislators, the number of Fifth District schools not equipped with or planned for air conditioning has dropped from 13 to only two—Chapel Hill and Kingsville Elementary Schools.



Cold weather should not stop efforts to get air conditioning in these schools. Please remain engaged at <https://www.facebook.com/ChangeforChapelHill> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kingsvilleAC>.